

REMARKS**Status of Claims**

The Office Action mailed July 13, 2004 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 23-27 were pending in the application, with claims 1-3 and 7-16 being withdrawn from consideration. No claims have been amended, claims 23-27 have been canceled and new claims 28-33 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-3, 7-16, and 28-33 are pending in the application with claims 28-33 submitted for reconsideration.

IDS

As a preliminary matter, applicants request that the examiner make of record the documents cited in the IDS filed on October 15, 2003, by returning an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form as required by MPEP § 609.

Amendments to the Specification and Claims

In reply to the request in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, a substitute abstract is attached on a separate page at the end of this Amendment. No new matter has been added.

This amendment adds and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Prior Art Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,049,691 to Abe et al. or U.S. patent 5,568,240 to Ohtsuka, in view of U.S. patent 5,529,703 to Sprenger et al. or U.S. patent 5, 412,184 to McGaffigan. Claims 23-27 have been canceled and new claims 28-33 have been added. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, insofar as they may be applied to new claims 28-23, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 28 recites, *inter alia*, that parts of the coil are buried in the grooves (in the vicinity of the two end portions of the core) such that a distance between the outer most part of the coil wound on the core and the inner surface of the heating roller is kept constant (with the distance in a central part of the coil wound around the core). This provides the advantage that a distance between the outer most part of the coil wound on the core and

the inner surface of the heat roller is made uniform. In order to obtain the above feature, the coil is wound on the core and the parts of the coil are buried in the grooves (in the vicinity of the two end portions of the core). This recited feature is not disclosed or suggested by the applied prior art. Accordingly, the pending independent claim 28 is patentable over the applied prior art.

These recited features are disclosed in the specification, for example, on page 10, line 33 to page 11, line 10. It should be noted that while the cited portion of the specification above discusses these features with respect to figure 6, the structure recited in the claims is also disclosed in figure 14a. Accordingly, the pending claims are readable on the elected species of figures 14a and 14b.

The dependent claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional features which are also patentable when considered as a whole.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance and an indication of the same is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the application, or if an examiner's amendment would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
CUSTOMER NO. 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Aaron C. Chatterjee

Richard L. Schwaab
Registration No. 25,479
Aaron C. Chatterjee
Registration No. 41,398
Attorneys for Applicants